

Remarks

Upon entry of the present amendment claims 1-24, 33-34, 37-63, and 67-71 are pending in the application. Claims 33 and 37 have been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the subject matter of the claims from which they depended (namely, claims 32 and 35, respectively). Claim 48 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Support for new claim 71 can be found at least in previously pending claim 36. Thus, no new matter has been added by the amendments presented herein.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

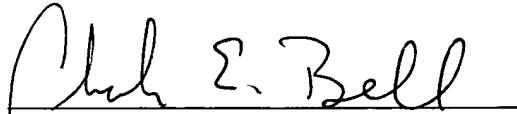
Claims 30, 32, 35, and 36 are rejected as unpatentable over Provenchee, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,277,915) (“Provenchee”) in view of Foster, (U.S. Patent No. 5,485,277) (“Foster”). This is the sole remaining rejection in the application.

In order to expedite prosecution of this application and move the case to allowance, Applicants have herein canceled claims 30, 32, 35, and 36 without prejudice or disclaimer. These claims may be pursued in later-filed applications. Accordingly, the rejection is moot and should be withdrawn.

On the basis of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If there are any questions regarding the content of this paper, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. A three-month petition for extension of time and the corresponding fee accompany this response.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be due, or to credit any overpayment, to the undersigned's account, Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 26597-571.

Respectfully submitted,



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